

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

May 19, 2014

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, May 19, 2014, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 7:01 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Doyle) at 7:12 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with vote of 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the executive session held on April 14, 2014, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Elizabeth Connor reported that she has been asked to participate in Junior Achievement Day on Thursday, May 29. This will be the first time Junior Achievement has been involved at the Block Island School.

Mr. Hicks reported that our application for funding for a Renewable Energy Grant did not rank high enough to be selected. He requested and received copies of the grant evaluation and learned that we received high marks in all areas except cost effectiveness. We scored above the average of funded projects in all other categories and missed funding by two points (out of 100).

Mr. Hicks updated the School Committee on the dust collector in the shop and the noise it generates, which exceeds the allowable limit per town ordinance. Proposals have been requested but he is currently waiting for a service call from the manufacturer to see if there are any changes that can be made to solve the problem in a less costly manner.

Mrs. Monje reported on the two different types of summer reading programs. One is a six-week tutorial/remediation program for students who need some extra help to keep them current over the summer. Students are chosen to participate in this program if they have an IEP, are in the RTI process, have low NECAP or AIMS web scores, or by teacher recommendation. The other

summer reading program requires each student to read books over the summer from an age appropriate list and then work on a project for one of the books. Mrs. Monje stated that Live Binder, an online based program, will be used this year. Summer work for math is mailed in August so students can begin working on math problems before the school year starts.

Mr. Hicks reported that Tim Connor won first place (\$300 and a trophy) and Alison Pineda won second place (\$200 and a trophy) in the Fire Safety Poster Contest. In addition, two of our seventh grade students won first and third place for poems they wrote for the Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Hicks reported that we should remain within budget and have a fund balance of about \$5500 at the end of this fiscal year. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the finance report through April 30, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks stated that during his tenure at Block Island School the idea of bringing students to the island has come up several times. He met with John Warfel, Maureen Flaherty, Judy Durden, and Kate Mello to discuss the potential first steps to create an enlarged school program built upon the island's strengths that would attract off-island students. He wondered if there would be community interest and, if so, a larger discussion would need to be held early next school year. He feels that the initial steps would be short term activities that would be of interest to mainland students. School Committee members were very interested in the idea as long as it would benefit our students and not negatively affect our budget.

New Business

Dental contracts for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 were submitted for School Committee review. Barbara Baldwin, Executive Director of the Block Island Medical Center, was present to answer any questions. A motion (Padien, Hall) to sign the dental contracts with the Medical Center for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that a collective bargaining agreement has been reached with the teachers' association, which they ratified this afternoon. He stated that out of date items have been cleaned up; salaries are at the state mean; the co-pay for health benefits increases to six percent, but if the town employees' co-pay goes up so will the teachers; staff meetings will be limited to 25 per year, with teachers working with the principals to evaluate and plan the meetings. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to sign the new two-year agreement with the New Shoreham Teachers' Association carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hicks complimented the School Committee and Teachers' Association for the positive working relationship he has experienced in his tenure. He will place the cost analysis on the school's web site after the meeting.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve and sign the contract with Administrative Assistant Marsha Gutierrez for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request received from Charlotte Herring to home school her daughter, Lucy Rigby-Leather, from June 9-17, 2014, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request for tuition reimbursement was received from Robert Closter, Jr. for two courses he intends to take towards completion of his master's degree (Psychology of Health, Sport, and Movement Science; Advanced Critical Health Issues). A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the request for tuition reimbursement received from Robert Closter, Jr. pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers' Contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

School Committee members chose Tuesday, June 3 as the date for their dinner with the Senior Class. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:44 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: June 16, 2014